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## Correspondence

## Factors influencing the occurrence of pelvic cellulitis in women undergoing laparoscopic-assisted vaginal hysterectomy

**To the Editor:**

I appreciate the query from Dr Tsai and Dr Seow [1] about our article, which was published in December 2011 after being accepted in July 2011 [2]. The authors said that our paper provided useful information to identify the risk factors that contribute to postoperative pelvic infection (pelvic cellulitis), but did not understand why prolonged hospital stay was defined a risk factor to increase pelvic cellulitis: prolonged hospital stay is a result rather than a cause (risk factor). In fact, only two among the 11 patients (case group) had postoperative pelvic cellulitis that occurred during hospitalization in our study. All the 195 patients who underwent laparoscopic-assisted vaginal hysterectomy were cared for under a clinical pathway. The mean length of hospital stay was significantly increased in the case group (Tables 2 and 3). We do think that prolonged hospital stay is a cause (risk factor) rather than a result. A register study from the Swedish national register for gynecological surgery about vaginal cleaning and postoperative infectious morbidity in vaginal or laparoscopically-assisted vaginal hysterectomy that enrolled 6496 women

also concluded that risk factors for infectious morbidity were young age, obesity, peri-operative injury of the urinary bladder, operative time, and duration of hospital stay [3].

**References**

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Wei-Chun Chang

*Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology,  
China Medical University Hospital, Taiwan  
E-mail address: [wei66@iris.seed.net.tw](mailto:wei66@iris.seed.net.tw)*